



Program Criteria Comparison

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE TRACK and NEW MEXICO GREEN ZIA PROGRAM



National Environmental Performance Track and New Mexico's Green Zia are voluntary programs designed to foster and reward environmental excellence. Performance Track is a national EPA program and Green Zia is a statewide Environment Department program. This fact sheet summarizes and compares criteria for Performance Track and the Achievement Level of Green Zia. Green Zia has three different levels - Commitment Level for beginners, Achievement Level for intermediate organizations making clear progress, and Excellence Awards for "best in class" performers with a fully integrated management system, excellent environmental results, and demonstrated environmental leadership through employee, supply chain, and community activities. The key difference between Performance Track and Green Zia is that Performance Track requires facilities to meet prescribed criteria, while Green Zia scores applicants based on their fulfillment of the Green Zia criteria and provides customized technical assistance and feedback to help applicants improve over time. The Green Zia criteria are adapted from the Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence criteria for total quality management in business. They are: leadership; planning for continuous environmental improvement; involvement of customers, suppliers and others; information and analysis; employee involvement; process management; and results. For additional information, see program web sites or contact program coordinators.

Common Program Criteria:

- **EMS:** Common elements include integrated planning, measurable targets and goals, clear roles and responsibilities, and plans for checking and correcting non-conformance issues.
- **Performance:** Organizations provide current levels and trends for significant environmental impacts.
- **Site Visits:** Periodic site visits are conducted in both programs.
- **Community Outreach:** Organizations involve communities by reporting activities and risks, responding to local concerns, and supporting community environmental protection activities.

Green Zia Achievement Level - Additional Criteria:

- **Eligibility:** Any organization that operates in New Mexico can apply, but subunits of parent organizations based in New Mexico are not eligible.
- **Past Performance:** Organizations provide current levels and trends for environmental results; customer, supplier, and employee results; and financial results of environmental initiatives.
- **Compliance Record:** Applicants must self-disclose compliance record to the Environment Department. (Note: two years of full compliance is required for the Green Zia Excellence Awards.)
- **Employee Involvement:** Employee education, skill development, and participation in addressing environmental issues are emphasized.
- **Customer and Supplier Involvement:** Organizations are expected to work with customers, suppliers, contractors, and vendors on environmental improvement and product stewardship.
- **Community Leadership:** Organizations are expected to mentor local businesses in their communities and participate in community economic development activities.
- **Membership Term:** Organizations reapply every year.

Web Site: www.nmenv.state.nm.us/Green_Zia_website

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Performance Track - Additional Criteria:

- **Eligibility:** All US facilities are eligible, but a company with multiple facilities must complete an application for each facility.
- **EMS Independent Assessment:** Facility must have conducted an independent EMS assessment.
- **EMS Cycle:** Facility must have completed one full EMS cycle including implementation, evaluation, and review.
- **Past Performance:** Applicants should provide two past achievements (small facilities only need to provide one), with only one achievement to any one indicator. Achievements need to be in standard format and normalized.
- **Future Performance:** Facility must make a commitment to future performance on four environmental indicators from at least two unique categories. Commitments must be reported in a standard format and performance for most commitments must be normalized.
- **Compliance Record:** Facility must pass a comprehensive compliance screen.
- **Community References:** Facility must provide community references (e.g., member of a citizen group, union).
- **Self-Certification:** A senior facility manager must certify that the application and annual report are true, accurate, and complete.
- **Annual Report:** Report must include EMS data and quantitative information illustrating a facility's progress towards its goals.
- **Membership Term:** Membership is for three years.

Web Site: www.epa.gov/performance-track

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